



Wagon Salvage

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Proposal Name: Wagon Salvage

Proposal Date: 6/1/2021

Proponent Name: Lisa Laufenberg-Soward

Line Officer: Bill Gamble

District: La Grande Ranger District

County(ies): Union

Anticipated Implementation: 7/14/21

Signing Authority: District Ranger

PALS Tracking #: 60243

Project File: C:\Users\briannacarollo\Box\01.
brianna.carollo
Workspace\lag2021SmallProjects\Vegetation
Projects

General Location: Oregon Trail Interpretive park on
National Forest System road 1843

Applicable Management Areas: MA 1W, 3, 17

Legal Description: T2S R36E Sec. 16

Elevation: 3200'

Watersheds: Five Points Creek-Grande Ronde River,
HUC 1706010404

APPLICABLE CATEGORY/IES

This proposal is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS because it fits the following category, pending extraordinary circumstance determinations:

Applicable Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(13) (DM Required)

This category applicable for this project because the La Grande Ranger District proposes salvaging trees damaged or blown over during a wind storm.



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PROPOSAL

A high wind event in March of 2021 blew over numerous trees near the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park. The La Grande Ranger District proposes a small salvage sale in and around the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park to improve public safety and reduce the risk of an insect outbreak. Dozens of trees, ranging from 12" to greater than 21" diameter at breast height (DBH), lie within 200 feet of National Forest System Road 1843 from the I-84 tunnel to the end of the loop at the Oregon Trail interpretive park.

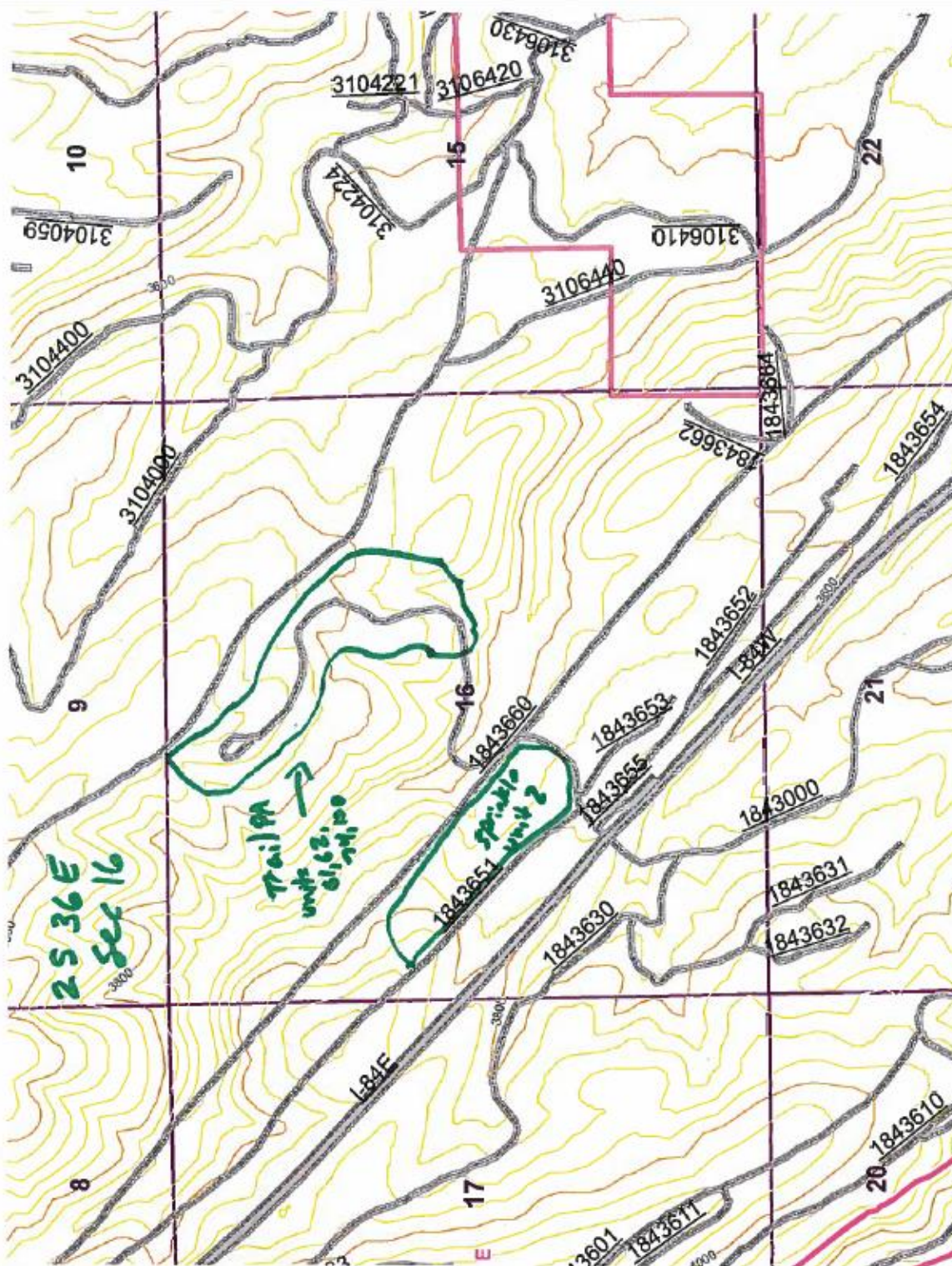
The salvage area is within both the Trail (2013) and Sprinkle (2001) Vegetation Management analysis areas:

- Sprinkle harvest unit: 2 – originally analyzed for 78 acres (4 MBF/Ac) of commercial thinning (HTH) using tractor harvest system
- Trail mechanical fuels units: 61,62,74 and 100

We will implement this project with the following Project Design Criteria:

- Harvest will occur within units previously analyzed for mechanical harvest under Trail or Sprinkle analysis areas
- The detrimental soil effect following project implementation must not exceed 20%
- Equipment will avoid shallow soils and scabs
- Ensure necessary water control structures are installed and maintained on skid trails and after all ground-disturbing activities
- Ensure erosion control structures are stabilized and working effectively
- Leave at least 60% effective ground cover on disturbed areas
 - If whole-tree yarding is used, backhaul slash and redistribute within the harvest area
 - If no suitable organic material is available, use weed free straw or equivalent erosion control measures
- Retain all standing snags
- Retain all snapped off tops
- Retain 6 large root-sprung trees marked with wildlife signs for high quality down wood habitat
- The following requirements would apply to the treatment units located adjacent to the Oregon Trail. Those units are: Trail 61 and 100
 - No heavy machinery within 12 feet from the edge of the Oregon Trail on either side, for a no-heavy-machinery corridor of 24 feet.
 - No new crossings, such as skid trails, will be created across the Trail.
 - Hand bucking and piling of slash will be the only piling method used within the Trail corridor. There will be no grapple piling in the Trail corridor. Slash may be hand piled adjacent to, but not within the Trail.
 - Work being performed in the Oregon Trail corridor will be monitored by the WWNF South Zone Archaeologist.

MAP(S)





PROPOSAL SCREENING

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Given the nature of the proposal, the Responsible Official is requesting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the following regulatory considerations in addition to NEPA:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFMA/Land Management Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Consultation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species Act | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Air Act |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Species (FSM 2670) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Act |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Historic Preservation Act | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pertinent Executive Orders |

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS TO BE CONTACTED

Given the nature of the proposal, the Line Officer/Responsible Official is requesting the following agencies, organizations and/or persons be contacted to provide input to, or to be made aware of, the proposal.

Oregon Trail Interpretive Park volunteers

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

RESOURCE PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW

The Line Officer/Responsible Official has requested the following resource areas to review the proposal to determine compliance with the regulatory considerations.

Table 1: Documentation of Review Completion

Resource	Review Complete
Botany	7/13/2021 Lanny Flaherty
Cultural/Heritage	8/9/2021 Erik Harvey
Engineering	7/14/2021 Richard Mills
Fisheries	6/16/2021 Sarah Brandy
Fuels	7/12/2021 Mike Johnson
Hydro	6/17/2021 Dana Nave
Soils	7/6/2021 Mary Young



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Resource	Review Complete
Silviculture	7/12/2021 Lucas Glick
Wildlife	8/5/2021 Julia Boland

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA) – LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSISTENCY

The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations regarding proposal consistency with applicable Land Management Plan direction, standards and guidelines.

Botany: Consistent

Range: N/A

Cultural/Heritage: Consistent

Recreation: N/A

Engineering: Consistent

Scenic Resources: N/A

Fisheries: Consistent

Soils: Consistent

Fuels: Consistent

Silviculture: Consistent

Hydro: Consistent

Special Management Areas: N/A

Lands/Special Uses: N/A

Wildlife: Consistent

Minerals: N/A

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES &/OR CRITICAL HABITAT

The pertinent specialists reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations for threatened, endangered and/or proposed species:

Table 2: TEPC Effect Determinations for ESA

Species/Habitat	Status	Proposed or Designated Critical Habitat Present?	Determination*	Brief Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Canada Lynx (<i>Felix lynx canadensis</i>)	Threatened	No	NE	Canada lynx is not considered to be present on the Forest, see Trail Biological Evaluation

*NE – No Effect; NLAA – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect; LAA – May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect; No Jeopardy - Not Likely to Jeopardize the Continued Existence or Adversely Modify Critical Habitat

SENSITIVE SPECIES (FSM 2670)

The pertinent specialists reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations for sensitive species:

Table 3: Sensitive Species Impact Determinations

Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Botany	NI	A review of existing inventory databases did not locate any documented Region 6 sensitive plant species within the project area, and field surveys of the project area did not indicate the presence of suitable habitat.
WILDLIFE:		<i>Only wildlife species with habitat within the proposed project area are listed here. Please see Biological Evaluation for the Trail Vegetation Management Project (2012) for additional details.</i>
Northern Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	MIIH	Species may occur in the area, but the action will focus mainly on removal of downed trees which do not provide habitat. Some standing root-sprung trees will be removed, but the action will take place outside nesting season and therefore is not expected to negatively impact the Forest population.
Lewis' woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	MIIH	Snags will not be removed, RHCA's protected
White-headed woodpecker (<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>)	MIIH	Standing trees and snags will remain.
Gray wolf	MIIH	As this is a generalist species, habitat exists, but there are no known den/rendezvous sites in the project area.
Bumblebee species: Western bumblebee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>), Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>), Morrisoni bumble bee (<i>Bombus morrisoni</i>)	MIIH	Time frame of the action does not coincide with hibernation. By August most bumblebees are out of the nest and floral resources in the area are primarily spent.
Fir pinwheel (<i>Radiodiscus albiectum</i>), shiny tightcoil (<i>Pristiloma wascoense</i>), thinlipped tightcoil (<i>Pristoloma idahoense</i>)	MIIH	Habitat is moist forest with high canopy cover and complex ground heterogeneity; action in this habitat type is limited. Action won't affect habitat quality, but there is potential for direct mortality from machines. Potential soil compaction (see Soil specialist report).

NI – No Impact; MIIH- May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but Will Not Likely Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species; WIFV - Will Impact Individuals or Habitat with A Consequence That the Action May Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Cause A Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA) – SECTION 106 REVIEW



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The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determination regarding Section 106 compliance:

No historic properties affected - 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Section 106 Review has been completed for the project area and no National Register eligible cultural sites were found.

COMMENTS

Appendix B(19)-Proposed undertakings in areas that have been surveyed under an inventory strategy meeting current standards where no historic properties are affected.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Based on the nature of the proposal, the line officer/responsible official made the following determination regarding Tribal Consultation:

Consultation with American Indian Tribes has been initiated and is ongoing.

COMMENTS

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation were notified about this project in June 2021.

PERTINENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The line officer and/or applicable specialist(s) have determined the proposal is in compliance with the following Executive Orders (EO), which were deemed pertinent based on the nature of the proposal.

- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12898, Environmental Justice
- EO 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- EO 13112, Invasive Species
- EO 13175, Consultation & Coordination w/ Indian Tribal Governments
- EO 13186, Migratory Birds
- EO 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage & Wildlife Conservation

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations with regards to presence of extraordinary circumstances:

Table 1: Extraordinary Circumstance Determinations

Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain.
WILDLIFE Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: Although habitat exists for some listed and sensitive species, the action will not take place during breeding or nesting seasons, nor will it remove or significantly alter breeding, nesting, or roosting habitat for these species.



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Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain.
FISHERIES Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	N/A, not present Rationale for Yes/No: This project will avoid riparian areas and use routine actions with predictable effects.
BOTANY Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: Neither prefield review or field surveys revealed sensitive or listed plants within the project area. This project will use routine actions with predictable effects.
Floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds	N/A, not present
Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas	N/A, not present
Inventoried roadless areas	N/A, not present
Research natural areas	N/A, not present
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: Following PDCs will preserve sites along the Oregon Trail.



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DECISION MEMO

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U.S. Forest Service

La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Union County, Oregon

This decision incorporates all previous information in this document and included in the project file.

DECISION & RATIONALE

I have decided to authorize the activities described above in the [Proposal](#) section, to include any modifications identified during environmental analysis and review of regulatory compliance. Application of stated project designs and mitigations will allow for protection of cultural and natural resources in the area while allowing for removal of windthrown trees. Removal of windthrown trees will allow for re-opening of the interpretive park with increased public safety, reduce potential for additional tree mortality from bark beetles and allow for utilization of windthrown trees and contributions to local mills and associated economic and employment opportunities.

APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION & FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

The [Proposal Information](#) section above provides rationale for categorically excluding this action from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and for using the category found at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(13). The [Environmental Analysis Review](#) section documents the finding that no extraordinary circumstances exist, along with findings required by other applicable laws and regulations, demonstrating compliance with the regulatory framework for the activities authorized by this decision.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS CONTACTED

A [list of agencies, organizations and/or persons contacted](#) regarding this proposal is provided above.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

I intend to implement this decision September 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (Agriculture Act of 2014 [Pub. L. No. 113-79], Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact:

Lisa Laufenberg-Soward, Sale Prep Lead, 3502 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR, 97850, 541-962-8542

Bill Gamble
La Grande District Ranger

August 10, 2021



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